LPG, Diesel and Petrol. PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are subsidized products. In addition to the Government subsidy, oil PSUs have been sharing the burden of subsidizing these products. In consequence, despite the steep increase in international prices since the announcement of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1.4.2002, the selling prices of these products have not been increased except for an increase of Rs. 20/cylinder in the retail selling price of Domestic LPG effective 16.6.2004. As regards Diesel and Petrol, a price band mechanism has been put in operation effective 1.8.2004, as per which oil companies can effect price revisions only within a prescribed price band.

(c) The details of retail selling prices in Delhi of Diesel and Petrol as on 1st April from 1999 to 2004 are given in the statement (*See* below) Retail selling prices in different parts of the country vary from place to place owing to freight, State taxes, and local levies.

Statement

Retail Selling prices of Diesel and Petrol in Delhi as on 1st April from 1999 to 2004

(Rs./Litre)

Date	Diesel	Petrol
1.4.1999	10.03	24.01
1.4.2000	14.04	25.94
1.4.2001	17.06	28.75
1.4.2002	16.59	26.54
1.4.2003	22.12	33.49
1.4.2004	21.74	33.71

Coal Gassification Project of GAIL

*308. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has been examining coal gassification option for commercial projects in eastern parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the source of technology and the countries, where this technology is being used for power generation and fertilizer production;

(c) whether Government will extend any fiscal and other support for projects on coal gassification in view of high oil price scenario; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) GAIL has contacted M/s Shell International for their Coal Gassification Technology. Shell Coal Gassification Process is in use to produce power in the Netherlands. As per M/s Shell, China is slated to produce fertilizer using Shell Coal Gassification Process.

(c) GAIL has not sought any fiscal or other support for this project.

(d) Does not arise.

Srinagar Airport as International Airport

*309. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of J&K have been requesting Government for declaring the airport at Srinagar as international airport;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in this direction; and

(c) by when a declaration to this effect would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The then Prime Minister on April 18, 2003 while laying foundation stone for expansion and upgradation of facilities of Srinagar Airport stated that the Srinagar Airport should be upgraded to an international level Airport. In pursuance to this, Airports Authority of India has taken up the works of upgradation of Srinagar Airport at the cost of Rs. 59.9 crore. The development works includes expansion of apron, terminal building, modern passenger facilities such as aerobridges, escalators, expansion of car park etc. Simultaneously, the Government has already initiated the process of Inter-Ministerial consultation for